



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Port Arthur, Texas, man was sentenced in federal court today for attempting to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

Joseph R. Gabourel, 32, of Port Arthur, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to five years and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Gabourel** to forfeit to the government the computer equipment and cell phone used to commit the offense.

On Dec. 21, 2005, **Gabourel** pleaded guilty to using the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. **Gabourel** engaged in a series of online conversations with an undercover police officer, who posed as both a 30-year-old woman and her 14-year-old daughter, between Feb. 10 and Sept. 25, 2005. During those Internet chat sessions, Schlozman said, **Gabourel** discussed having sex with the daughter. While chatting with the officer portraying the 14-year-old daughter, **Gabourel** masturbated over the Webcam and demonstrated how he would use a condom.

Gabourel made arrangements to travel from Texas to Missouri in order to have sex with the daughter. He was arrested after he arrived in the Kansas City, Mo., area on Sept. 24, 2005.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html